U.S. activities in Afghanistan and Pakistan

1981. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States is setting militancy in India's neighbourhood in post-Taliban Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, Government's response to these developments; and

(c) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The United States has deployed military forces in a number of countries, including Afghanistan and Pakistan, for the purpose of conducting "Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan. India supported "Operation Enduring Freedom" as part of the global war against terrorism and against the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

(b) and (c) Government has noted U.S. Government's statement that it does not seek a permanent presence in these countries. The Government is fully alert to all developments in India's extended neighbourhood and formulates its policies and approach on the basis of the assessment of the impact of these developments for India's security.

Criteria to declare a country and organisation as terrorist

1982. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the internationally accepted criteria to declare a country and an organisation as terrorist;

(b) the names of the countries and organisations declared so far terrorist in terms of those criteria;

(c) whether Bhutan and Bangladesh qualify to be termed as Terrorist States as they are harbouring terrorists operating in India;